



March 18 , 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Appropriations Committee Leaders:

As the Congress proceeds with setting federal spending priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, the STEM Education Coalition offers you its views and recommendations on the Administration's budget proposals related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs.

In today's economy every student needs to have a strong foundation in the STEM subjects in order to land and succeed in virtually any job – from the shop floor to the research lab to the boardroom. Further, the best, most highly paying jobs are nearly all in the STEM fields. If we are going to enable our students to compete in the global economy we must maintain a strong federal commitment to improve teaching and learning in the STEM fields.

Our recommendations on the FY 2017 Budget proposal:

- We support the proposal of \$2.250 billion for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State grants program at the Department of Education (DoEd). This program provides support for teacher quality improvement initiatives, including professional development and teacher leadership, and provides states with flexibility in addressing STEM-specific challenges in this area.
- We support full funding of the ESSA Title IV Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants at the DoEd at the authorized level of \$1.65 billion. The new initiative, would support state-led efforts to promote hands on STEM learning, STEM specialty schools, integration of informal and formal STEM programs, and support improvement in computer science instruction. We are very disappointed the Administration proposed only \$500 million for this program, which was a central focus of the ESSA and recommend Congress establish the program as authorized.
- We support the proposal of \$100 million for the new Computer Science for All Development Grants at the DoEd. Too few American schools are teaching computer science and the Administration's Computer Science for All initiative is an ambitious effort to promote equity and expanded learning opportunities in this critical area.

- We support the proposal of \$10 million for a STEM Master Teacher Corps at the DoEd, which was authorized through Section 2245 of ESSA. This program would help cultivate teacher leaders in STEM subjects and promote the sharing of best practices across the teaching professions.
- We support the proposal of \$952.86 million for the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate. This funding supports discovery and innovation at the frontiers of STEM learning and teaching, supports the testing, assessment, study and evaluation of highly innovative models and approaches to learning, and fosters linkages between STEM education research and practice that improve the effectiveness of programs across the federal government and at the state level.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you and look forward to working with you closely during the Appropriations process.

Respectfully,

STEM Education Coalition
 Afterschool Alliance
 American Chemical Society
 American Society for Engineering Education
 American Society of Civil Engineers
 ASME
 Campaign for Environmental Literacy
 Education Development Center
 FIRST (For Recognition and Inspiration of Science and Technology)
 Hands on Science Partnership
 National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools
 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
 National Science Teachers Association
 Project Lead the Way
 Society of Women Engineers
 The Aeronautical Repair Station Association
 The Aviation Technician Education Council
 The National Society of Black Engineers

100Kin10
 American Alliance of Museums
 American Association of Physics in Medicine
 American Association of Physics Teachers
 American Institute of Physics
 Arc Capital Development
 Associated Equipment Distributors
 Association of Science-Technology Centers
 Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools
 Calaveras Unified School District

Citizen Schools
Creative Learning Systems
C-STEM Teacher & Student Support Services, Inc.
Dycet Research Group
Ecological Society of America
Edventure More
Em Writes LLC
EnCorps STEM Teachers Program
First Focus Campaign for Children
Funutation Tech Academy
Generation Infocus
Girls Inc.
IKZ Advisors, LLC
In Reach, Inc.
INNOVIM
JDG Ventures Inc.
KeepCoding
Latino Leadership, Inc.
LearnOnLine, Inc
Maricopa County Education Service Agency
National AfterSchool Association
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Girls Collaborative
National Institute of Building Sciences
National Science Education Leadership Association
NTC Corporate
Oracle
Oregon Health & Science University
PledgeCents
Protect Our Waters
Research!America
Rhode Island STEM Center @ Rhode Island College
Robbins Children's Programs, Inc.
Royal Welding & Fabricating
San Francisco Teacher Residency
Software and Information Industry Association
Solar Car
South Carolina Coalition for Mathematics & Science
SparkFun Electronics
Start Engineering
STEM For Kids
STEMfinity
Students4STEM
Summit STEM, LLC
Tampa Sailing Squadron, Youth Sailing Inc.

TechOut Events
The American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
The Optical Society
The Young Professional Institute
Thinking Media/Learning Blade
US2020
Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Washington STEM
Wisconsin Afterschool Network